IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition apparatus for calculating a score indicating a likelihood that one or more speech recognition results of input speech that includes an unknown word is a correct speech recognition result of the unknown word and for performing continuous speech recognition on the input speech based on the score, said speech recognition apparatus comprising:

extraction means for extracting features of the input speech;

storing means to store a dictionary database having a standard dictionary area and an unknown word dictionary area;

calculation means to calculate the score of a word sequence for each candidate for the unknown word in the word sequence by using the extracted features on the basis of the unknown word dictionary area in which unknown-word-forming elements are stored, said elements forming a speech recognition result corresponding to an unknown word, and for classifying said speech recognition result by an attribute thereof; and

selection means to select a word sequence of speech recognition results that represent the original input speech based on said ~~scores~~score,

wherein the unknown word dictionary includes a general purpose branch and an attribute branch connected in sequence, a loop branch is connected to the general purpose branch, wherein

unknown words are repeatedly processed through the general purpose branch a predetermined number of times after going through the loop branch.

2. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the unknown word dictionary area, the unknown-word-forming elements for classifying the speech recognition result corresponding to the unknown word by a part of speech thereof are entered.

3. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 2, wherein in the unknown word dictionary area, suffixes are entered as said unknown-word-forming elements.

4. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in the unknown word dictionary area, phonemes that form the unknown word are entered together with the suffixes.

5. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the unknown word dictionary area, the unknown-word-forming elements for classifying the speech recognition result corresponding to the unknown word by a language thereof are entered.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition method for calculating a score indicating a likelihood that one or more speech recognition results of input speech including an unknown word is a correct speech recognition of the unknown word, and for performing continuous speech recognition on said speech based on the score, said speech recognition method comprising the steps of:

extracting features of the input speech;

storing a dictionary database that is divided into a standard dictionary area and an unknown word dictionary area;

calculating said score of a word sequence for each candidate for the unknown word in the word sequence by using the extracted features on the basis of the unknown word dictionary area in which unknown-word-forming elements are stored, said elements forming a speech recognition result corresponding to an unknown word, and for classifying the speech recognition result by an attribute thereof; and

selecting a word sequence of speech recognition results, which represent the original input speech on said ~~score~~score,

wherein the unknown word dictionary includes a general purpose branch and an attribute branch connected in sequence, a loop branch is connected to the general purpose branch, wherein unknown words are repeatedly processed through the general purpose branch a predetermined number of times after going through the loop branch.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~recording~~ computer-readable medium ~~having~~ storing a computer program ~~recorded thereon~~ that when executed on a processor performs a method for calculating a score indicating a likelihood that one or more speech recognition results

of input speech that includes an unknown word is a correct speech recognition result of the unknown word and for performing continuous speech recognition on the input speech based on the score, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting features of the input speech;

storing a dictionary database that is divided into a standard dictionary area and an unknown word dictionary area;

calculating said score of a word sequence for each candidate for the unknown word in the word sequence by using the extracted features on the basis of the unknown word dictionary area in which unknown-word-forming elements are stored, said elements forming a speech recognition result corresponding to an unknown word, and for classifying the speech recognition result by an attribute thereof; and

selecting a word sequence of speech recognition results, which represent the original input speech on said ~~score~~score,

wherein the unknown word dictionary includes a general purpose branch and an attribute branch connected in sequence, a loop branch is connected to the general purpose branch, wherein unknown words are repeatedly processed through the general purpose branch a predetermined number of times after going through the loop branch.

9. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition method according to Claim 7, wherein in the unknown word dictionary area, the unknown-word-forming elements for classifying the speech recognition result corresponding to the unknown word by a part of speech thereof are entered.

10. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition method according to Claim 9, wherein in the unknown word dictionary area, suffixes are entered as the unknown-word-forming elements.

11. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition method according to Claim 10, wherein in the unknown word dictionary area, phonemes which form the unknown word are entered together with the suffixes.

12. (Previously Presented) The speech recognition method according to Claim 7, wherein in the unknown word dictionary area, the unknown-word-forming elements for classifying the speech recognition result corresponding to the unknown word by a language thereof are entered.

13. (New) The speech recognition apparatus of claim 1, wherein the unknown word dictionary includes a general purpose branch and an attribute branch connected in sequence, a loop branch is connected to the general purpose branch, wherein unknown words are repeatedly processed through the general purpose branch a predetermined number of times after going through the loop branch.

14. (New) The speech recognition method of claim 7, wherein the unknown word dictionary includes a general purpose branch and an attribute branch connected in sequence, a loop branch is connected to the general purpose branch, wherein unknown words are

repeatedly processed through the general purpose branch a predetermined number of times after going through the loop branch.

15. (New) The computer-readable mendium of claim 8, wherein the unknown word dictionary includes a general purpose branch and an attribute branch connected in sequence, a loop branch is connected to the general purpose branch, wherein unknown words are repeatedly processed through the general purpose branch a predetermined number of times after going through the loop branch.